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AMISH COUNTRY LANDMARK

Travelers have been traversing Lancaster County along Route 30 for well over two centuries. And for over 70 years, a very special building has signaled their arrival in Amish Country. It has a legitimate claim on being the area's oldest visitor landmark. Most importantly, it's the "place that made shoo-fly pie famous." That iconic structure is the **Dutch Haven** windmill.

With a history dating back to the beginnings of tourism here, the building is rich in memories. From the time it started as a luncheonette in 1920 right up to the present, it has remained most famous for shoo-fly pie, served warm with whipped cream. The Dutch Haven shoo-fly pie has even been mentioned in a TIME magazine article.

Today, as soon as you walk in, you'll be offered a free sample of that same delicious, gooey pie. Some 40,000 pies are baked annually, using

the original (secret) recipe. Visitors are still encouraged to "Take one for yourself or send one to someone nice." You can buy and ship pies home at the store or at their "online shop," where you'll find other local crafts as well.

Yes, Dutch Haven is much more than pies, with over 10,000 unique gift items, foods, and collectibles. Some of the most popular are jams, jellies, and canned goods, noodles, Amish pine

furniture and cedar chests, hex signs, quilted spice mats, Amish straw hats, jewelry and gemstones, Dutch Delft tiles, Amish dolls, onyx and soapstone animals, trivets, metal stars, Tiffany lamps, Amish romance novels, framed prints, plenty of T-shirts and postcards, and a tremendous selection of Amish-made outdoor furniture. It's an eclectic mix, to say the least.

As you explore, you'll discover lots of other "surprises" around every corner. Expect the unexpected! And don't forget the Amish-style root beer in the barrel.

Remember, Dutch Haven is open 7 days a week, Sunday–Thursday, 9 AM–7 PM and Friday and Saturday 9 AM–9 PM. For more info about this Lancaster County landmark, call 717.687.0111. Look forward to your free sample when you walk in under the welcoming arms of the windmill...for this truly is the place that made shoo-fly pie famous. 





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The Greatest Christmas Display in the USA Turns 70

By Brad Igou



Koziar's Christmas Village is a spectacular holiday display located on Christmas Village Road, two miles off Route 183 in Bernville. It has been a well known, family owned, seasonal attraction since its founding by William M. Koziar 70 years ago. Every night the Koziar farm is transformed into a winter fairyland.

Driving through the darkened countryside, you will suddenly find yourself in a dazzling valley set aglow with more Christmas lights than you have ever seen before. Adding to the magnificent beauty is the spectacular reflection of those thousands and thousands of lights in the lake situated in front of the main house.

Visit the various buildings filled with Trim-the-Tree ideas, indoor and outdoor train displays, glass-enclosed buildings, and many shops filled with unique Christmas displays, ornaments, and souvenirs. Enjoy the aroma of freshly baked cookies in the Country Kitchen and browse in Santa's toy shop filled with unusual toys and gifts for children of all ages. See the unique handmade train platform and follow the trains through the tunnels, across the trestles, around the miniature town located in the large Refreshment Barn. Come talk to Santa and his helpers, and see your favorite cartoon and fairy tale characters throughout the Village.

In its 70 year history, Koziar's Christmas Village has received many awards, including Best Outdoor Christmas Display in the World, and the Award of Excellence as One of the Top Attractions in Pennsylvania. Visiting here is truly like "Walking in a Winter Wonderland." You will take home many happy memories of an old-fashioned Christmas. www.koziarschristmasvillage.com



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Trim the Tree with Sam's Man Cave

By Clinton Martin

Sam's Man Cave, the source for all things beer and bar décor, collectibles, steins, and taps, offers a fun way to trim the tree this Christmas...officially licensed Budweiser ornaments. Featuring beautiful majestic Clydesdales on a moonlit snowy walk, these finely crafted baubles will add sparkle to your tree with personality and style.

Sam's stocks so much more than you could ever imagine, as long as it pertains to "breweriana." Check out the store and prepare to laugh out loud at some of the vintage metal bar signs.

Sam's Man Cave can be reached at 717.394.6404, or www.SamsManCave.com. Stop in at the shop on Route 30 near Tanger Outlets at 2207 Lincoln Highway East.



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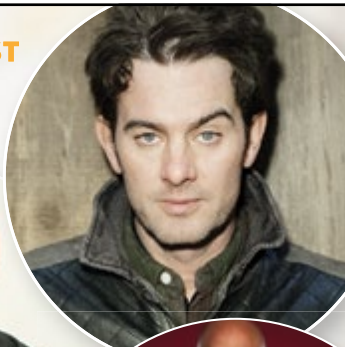
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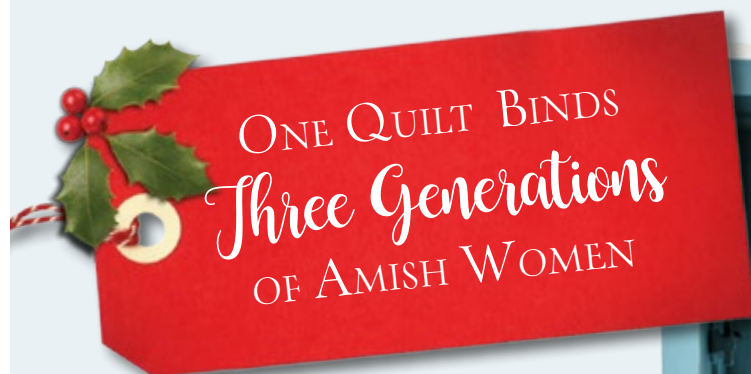
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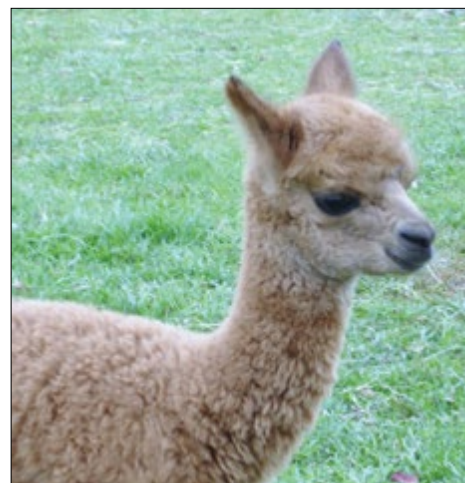
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COUNTRY INN of LANCASTER

A Warm Hug from Nature at Eastland Alpacas

By Clinton Martin



Eastland Alpacas doesn't always keep regular hours at their farm boutique, but during the holiday season there is a fantastic opportunity for visitors to enjoy the farm's special ambience and extensive collection of its Alpaca fur merchandise. There is no stopping in "by chance" risk this time of year!

Eastland Alpacas is a 30 acre farm less than eight miles from Spooky Nook Sports Complex on Lancaster's west side. In addition to raising alpacas, the farm's on-site boutique is stocked with unique items made from alpaca fiber - sweaters, scarves, hats, gloves, socks, sofa throws, and stuffed animals. As for yarn, you'll find it ranges from raw fiber to yarn from the farm's own animals, plus a vast color selection of authentic Peruvian yarns. Visitors of any age enjoy their visit to the farm, the alpacas, and the farm store.

Holiday Open House hours are November 4, 10:00am-4:00pm; November 5, 12:00pm-4:00pm; November 11, 10:00am-4:00pm; and November 12, 12:00pm-4:00pm. During the Open House, visitors can feed, and even lead the Alpacas (like walking a dog!) Farm wagon rides are offered. A food stand benefitting a good cause dishes up good eats. Eastland Alpacas even show off their skills by traversing an obstacle course. And of course, the farm store itself entices with hundreds of wonderful gift items.

Regular store hours continue November 13 through December 31, 2017, Monday through Saturday, 10:00am-4:00pm. Sundays 1:00pm-4:00pm. For GPS directions, use 2089 Risser Mill Road, Mount Joy, PA. Call 717.653.2757. www.eastlandalpacas.com

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There's nothing Huckleberry Hill, Wisconsin's Anna and Felty Helmuth like better than a challenge and the chance to matchmake their feisty granddaughter is their most delightful task yet.



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Meat Pies a Holiday Tradition at Zook's

By Clinton Martin

Growing up in Lancaster County, I enjoyed pot pie as more of a stew, somewhat akin to what southerners call Chicken & Dumplings. It was a common treat, something we had almost

on a weekly basis. To this day, the thought of Mom's pot pie bubbling softly in a kettle is enough to get my mouth watering.



However, every year at Christmas time, we enjoyed a special savory treat. I'm not sure why we didn't have homemade meat pies at other times of the year, but among my family tree, mince meat and other meat-stuffed pies were a much-anticipated Christmas tradition.

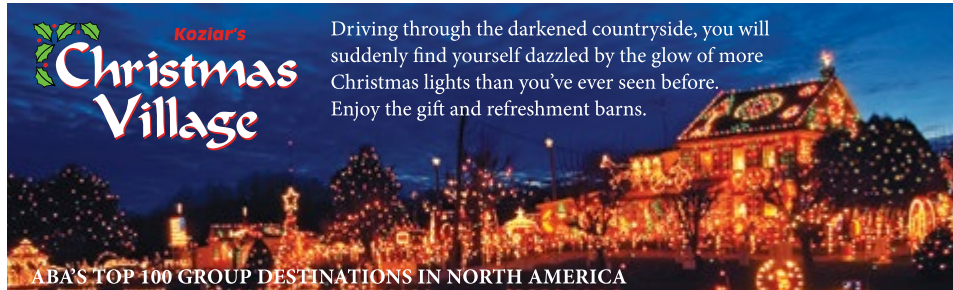
Zook's Homemade Chicken Pies has taken this common PA Dutch custom and made it available to both locals and those visiting Amish Country at any time of year. Zook's became famous over the last two generations with its signature chicken pies, but the Zook's family of cooks have now branched out to produce sausage pies, beef pies, veggie pies, and even apple dumplings!

Start a holiday tradition of your own with Zook's pies, fresh or frozen, to finish cooking at your home, RV, campsite, or hotel equipped with a kitchenette. The meat pies will open your taste buds as to just how tasty a PA Dutch savory meat pie can be at this festive (or any) time of year.

Call 717.768.0239 to leave a message, or point your GPS to 3194 Harvest Dr., Ronks PA, 17572, just a mile southwest of Intercourse. 



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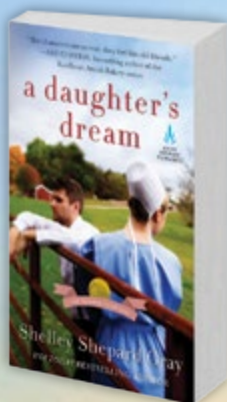


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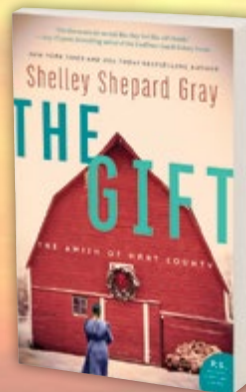
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Gifts That Make A Difference

by Clinton Martin



In 1920, a group of Mennonites created the Mennonite Central Committee to aid starving people in Russia and Ukraine. Today, the MCC is at work in every continent except Antarctica and Australia, including some of the most politically reclusive nations on earth.

MCC's mission to aid the suffering and hungry people of the world has for the past five years now reached the Democratic People's

Republic of Korea (more commonly referred to as North Korea). MCC has been sending soybeans through Canada to the South Pyongan Provincial Kindergarten Orphanage, where the beans are fashioned into protein-rich soy milk, tofu, and toasted beans.

The efforts have provided over 800 children with access to nutritious, sustaining food (where they otherwise would have gone hungry). More details about the program unfortunately can't be shared due to the nature of security surrounding the mission.

All this great work takes more than just a desire and a mission. It takes money. Where does it all come from? Actually, much of the money generated for supporting the MCC comes out of our own backyards. Over 16 million dollars of the MCC's annual budget comes from a very interesting source... a network of over 100 MCC Thrift Shops throughout the US and Canada.

While in Amish Country, I hope you visit these shops. You'll know that while you are filling your shopping bag with great bargains, you are also helping a worthy cause. For more information about the MCC Thrift Shop network, visit www.thrift.mcc.org.

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In the quaint village of White Horse, amidst the tranquility of Amish farms, shop two floors of upscale high-quality merchandise and treasures for the whole family. This hidden gem is your source for beautiful linens, lightly used clothing and shoes, brand name purses, jewelry, housewares, crystal, toys, books galore, and must-see vintage ware and antiques. The inventory changes literally every day. Come watch quilts being stitched by local groups in the Quilting Room. The store features a 50 cent clothing rack, a store-wide weekly half-price color tag sale, and select clothing is only \$1.00 on Saturdays. Hours are every Monday-Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm, and Saturday 9:00am to 4:00pm. Shop in person and like them on Facebook for weekly specials. 2017 marks the 26th year of this shoppe. The shoppe's staff and volunteers are grateful that God has greatly blessed them so that they are able to reach out to the local community as well as those in need around the world. www.countrygiftandthrift.com.

Ephrata Re-Uzit Clothing & Housewares

717.733.4982 The small-town of Ephrata embodies the best of downtown Amish Country. There is plenty to do in this venerated borough, including some excellent thrift shop bargain-browsing. The Ephrata Re-Uzit shop is located right beside the old train station, now the town's visitor center, with plenty of free public parking including hitching rails for buggies, since the



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local Amish and Mennonite communities enjoy shopping here too. With one of the thrift shop network's widest selections of clothing, this store offers a fine way to clothe the kids, mom, dad, friends, family, and even grandma and grandpa. There is also plenty of glassware and kitchen items, plus a well-stocked toy corner full of dolls, trucks, puzzles, and plush items.

Ephrata Re-Uzit Furniture & Books 717.733.4934 Also on State Street at the south edge of Ephrata is a furniture and book warehouse not to be missed. Luxurious used leather couches and sectionals are available at fantastic prices, while a large selection of wooden furniture like hutches, dining room sets, and desks and end tables are on display beside an impressive variety of upholstered choices. Sharing space in this store is also an extensive selection of books and other media. Locals and visitors alike love that every purchase helps support disaster relief around the Country and the world. The easiest way to reach this store is to head North on Route 272 from Lancaster, taking State Street at the Y (use the Wendy's as a landmark) and turn right into the parking lot of the store directly after turning onto State Street.

Re-Uzit Shop of New Holland 717.354.8355 At the intersection of Route 23 and Shirk Road in New Holland is a very special thrift shop. It started in 1976 and was the first MCC Thrift Shop in

Lancaster County. This is one of the largest thrift shops in the entire MCC-supporting network. Retail space alone accounts for 26,000 square feet of items on display, with the entire building occupying 40,000 square feet! There is plenty of furniture, clothing, crafts, gifts, decorations, small kitchen appliances, dishware, hardware, antiques, collectibles, and lamps available in this multifloor shopper's delight. This store has selected items for half price every week based on the color of the price tag. In addition, there is a section for 50 cent clothing. Known for a bright, clean atmosphere with friendly, helpful staff, this Re-Uzit offers shoppers a fine way to spend an afternoon in Amish Country. www.newhollandreuzit.org

Morgantown Re-Uzit Shoppe 610.286.7233

Morgantown is often considered the gateway to Amish Country from the east. It is an easy hop and skip off the PA Turnpike, the first welcome to Amish Country many visitors see, and can be easily reached from Berks, Chester, and Lancaster Counties. On Route 23 just west of Morgantown stands a Re-Uzit shop full of thrifty and useful finds. This store has everything for daily life's necessities. Apparel, décor, home goods, toys, gifts – shop here before you go to a regular retail store. You'll probably find what you're looking for, save money, and support a worthy cause all at the same time. A great collection of vintage collectibles and antiques is a fun bonus. "Like" the store on Facebook to see more photos, specials, hours and directions.

The Main Street Closet 717.464.2038 Main Street Closet is 5 minutes south of Lancaster at 2842 N. Willow Street Pike in Willow Street, PA. The shop has been at this new location since April of 2013 and is growing by leaps and bounds. The inventory changes daily with a large assortment of housewares, vintage items, collectibles, glassware, tools, books, shoes, games, puzzles, linens and a huge variety of clothing for the entire family. Every week items with a different color price tag go on sale at half price throughout the store. You are sure to find that special something to add to your collection, a craft item you have been looking for, a cute outfit for one of the kids and even something for yourself or your spouse. Check out this fun store and see what treasure you might find! From Lancaster take Route 272 south. Turn left on the second road past Kendig Square shopping mall, which is West Willow Road. Proceed several blocks to the corner of West Willow and 272 North. If traveling north on 272, turn left onto West Willow Road to enter the parking lot. With items on display at the various stores above always changing, stop in at one or more of them and remember that you are not only helping yourself to quality merchandise at a fair price, but helping other folks in need at the same time. www.mainstreetcloset.org

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Hungry? Try Neto's Pizza!

By Caleb Bressler

If you're looking for great pizza in Lancaster, there's a tasty new option you'll definitely want to try. Take a look at Neto's Facebook page...it's

full of glowing praise. "Best pizza you will ever have! Once you try Neto's pizza you will never want any other again," one person commented. Another reviewer writes, "I grew up in NJ/NY

and had failed to find a good NY pizza...today I found it."

Besides taste, another thing setting Neto's apart is the second-to-none build-your-own-pizza concept. This is more than simply picking out toppings. You get to choose everything from the crust, to the sauce, to the cheese and, of course, the toppings. The array of options runs from the traditional pepperoni, olives and mushrooms to Brussel sprouts, short ribs, and zucchini. Finish the pizza off with truffle oil, fresh basil, parmesan cheese, or a variety of other delectable options.

If you, or others in your party, aren't in the mood for pizza, there are other equally enticing options as well. Try a gyro (a Mediterranean "wrap" made with beef, lamb, and other fillings in a pita) or make-your-own salad. Be sure to leave room for dessert, which ranges from milkshakes to baklava - a Greek dessert made with honey, flaky pastry, and nuts.

If you aren't sure what you'd like for dinner tonight, I suggest you give Neto's a try located at 2319 E. Lincoln Hwy, Lancaster, PA 17602. You can eat in, of course, or you can order in advance by calling 717.299.9200, or by visiting www.netospizza.com. 



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Make Yourself Merry at Mount Hope Mansion

By Clinton Martin

You might live in a stately home. Perhaps you've got an old manor house in your home town. Or, maybe fortune has smiled on you and you're the proud owner of an actual historic mansion. Either way, you've still not experienced the grandeur and grace of Mount Hope Mansion, Amish Country's own Victorian grand dame, listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

For most of the year, the mansion welcomes guests to Mount Hope Estate, with her charming exterior, standing as the gatekeeper to over 35 acres of manicured grounds, and home of many festivals, including the rollicking PA Renaissance Faire. However, November through February, the mansion swings wide the massive front door and is, for this festive season, the venue for several special events.

But this is so much more than just an historic home. Each room, decked out in its Victorian finery, plays host to various theatrical and epicurean delights. From November 2-12, Mount Hope Mansion hosts Poe Evermore. In this macabre adventure, you join the characters of some

of Poe's most famous tales as they move about the mansion. Dine within the decorated rooms of the haunted Mansion, and enjoy live performances of your favorite Edgar Allan Poe tales.

Then, from November 24 to 26, Mount Hope celebrates the Christmas season with Holidays at Mount Hope. The Mansion is decked out in Christmas splendor, with food, hot mulled wine, and beer samplings offered, as well as full service dining in the onsite tavern. Visits from Father Christmas, and a wonderful gathering of craft merchants and artisans provide festive and unique shopping opportunities. Exclusively discounted 2018 event tickets are also offered for sale. A dinner theater experience runs December 8 through December 23.

Finally, in February 2018, the Mansion is home to a wonderful murder mystery dinner. Murder at Mount Hope is an interactive, culinary "who-done-it," where guests enjoy a sumptuous four-course meal and the opportunity to become the crime-solving detective – interrogate the suspects, put the clues together, and uncover the truth!

Information for all Mount Hope events can be found at www.parenfaire.com or by calling

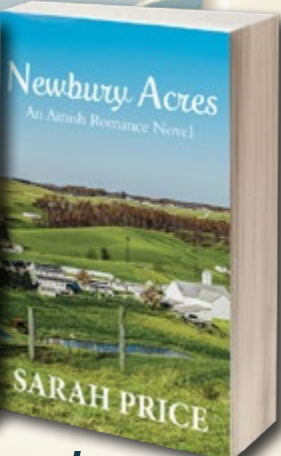
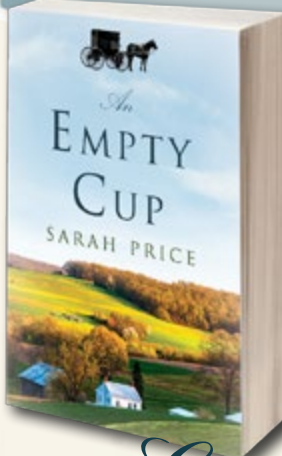


717.665.7021. Mount Hope Estate is located in northern Lancaster County, 15 miles north of Lancaster, PA and 13 miles east of Hershey, 2775 Lebanon Road, Manheim, PA 17545. 



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Visit This Beloved Lancaster Attraction One Last Time

By Caleb Bressler



If you've never experienced the National Christmas Center, I urge you to not let this season slip by without a visit. No, I really mean it, because, sadly, this is your last chance. 2017's Holiday season will bring down the curtain on this treasured Amish Country attraction.

Named by the Travel Channel as one of the "most Christmas-y places in America," you'll discover Christmas' past and holiday fantasies, wrapped in tradition and nostalgia. While some might classify the NCC as a "museum," the sign outside reading "We're more than you expect" says it best.

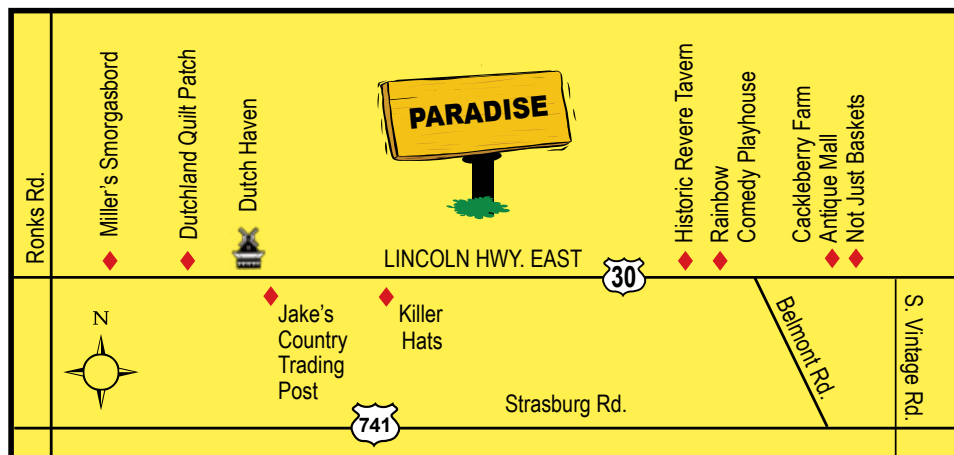
Christmas is everywhere you look. Stepping into the lobby, you're greeted by a nativity scene before making your way past a 1950s living room at Christmas time. Then you walk through the entrance gate to begin your magical journey.

Explore Santa's Workshop, full of decorations, animatronics, and lights. Walk down the lanes of the Christmas village of Tutor Town, with its charming storybook scenes and animated creatures. Discover Christmas celebrations from around the world. Finally, follow in the footsteps of Mary and Joseph through the streets of ancient Bethlehem.

Of course there is much more, but I won't spoil it for you. You'll be surprised and pleased at what's around the next corner within this 20,000 square foot wonderland.

The National Christmas Center will be officially closing on January 7, 2018. Make sure you get your visit in, as this Christmas icon will soon be gone forever. The Center is located at 3427 Lincoln Highway East in Paradise. Learn more by phone at 717.442.7950, or www.nationalchristmascenter.com. A specially discounted Holiday combined ticket that includes the National Christmas Center and a live performance of the wonderful "Christmas Journey" Magic Lantern Show at nearby Plain & Fancy Theater is available. Save \$7.50 per adult. Ask at the front desk or visit www.MagicLanternTheater.com for details. 

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America. Taverns and stagecoach stops grew up along the way. One of these, originally called the "Sign of the Spread Eagle," dates to 1740 and is today's Revere Tavern. Famous guests included composer Stephen Foster, who penned some of his songs right there in Paradise. 

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Ice Cream with Mr. & Mrs. Claus At Turkey Hill

By Clinton Martin

What does Santa do with all the Christmas Eve milk and cookies he collects visiting house after house? Well, he might just churn it all into one big batch of cookies and cream ice cream! At least, that's what he'd do if the Turkey Hill Experience was located at the North Pole.

Luckily, for those visiting Amish Country, Turkey Hill Experience is not located in the frozen tundra, but along the western border of Lancaster County, in the small river town of Columbia. The Experience is the official visitor center for the Turkey Hill Ice Cream Company. The attraction is open daily, and there are many hands-on activities to enjoy, including (for jolly old elves and regular Joes alike) a make-your-own ice cream flavor lab.

However, on Saturday, December 16th, the Turkey Hill Experience will play host to good old Santa and Mrs. Claus. The event takes place 6:00pm till 8:00pm, and there's a sleigh full of fun planned.

Continued on Page 21



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*** Hours vary seasonally. Visit www.Miller1929.com or call 717-687-6621 to confirm.**



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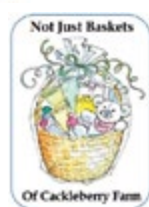
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The Turkey Hill Experience

(Continued from Page 19)



The stockings will be hung above the fireplace with care while Mr. and Mrs. Claus await on the porch to welcome all. The Turkey Hill Experience will be beautifully decorated to celebrate the season, including several themed Christmas trees. Kids ages 2-12, will be able to create a holiday card that will be mailed to their special someone, sit and listen while Santa reads Christmas stories, make a Christmas craft, and enjoy a special Christmas ice cream treat along with one of Mrs. Claus' freshly baked cookies! Reservations are required for this event, however, so call 844.847.4884 to assure your visit. Otherwise, skip the Polar Express and take Route 30 to the Columbia Exit and 301 Linden Street to visit on any other day of the year, and enjoy this singular ice cream attraction. For more information visit www.turkeyhillexperience.com.



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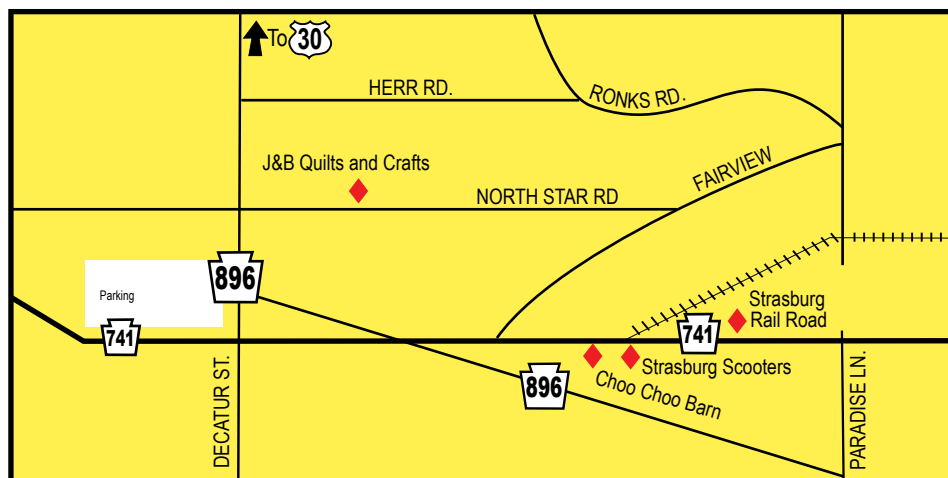
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to save the steam locomotives from demise, a group of local enthusiasts turned to passengers and visitors to keep America's oldest short-line running as the now famous Strasburg Rail Road. Not surprisingly, Strasburg is now home to several wonderful train related attractions. All aboard! 🚂




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Local Folk in Marvelous Miniature: Choo Choo Barn

By Clinton Martin

There's so much to see in the layout at Choo Choo Barn, including hidden Santas throughout the scenery.

The term baby-boomer gets bantered around a lot these days, but it wasn't just little bundles of joy that spiked after World War II ended. Many soldiers came home looking to start something new, creative, different, interesting (and peaceful.) The Choo Choo Barn in Strasburg, a train-centric attraction that has been delighting families for generations, was the brainchild of just such a returning serviceman.

George Groff had recently returned from World War II, and was looking for a Christmas present for his two-year-old son, Gary. He found a \$12.50 Lionel train set and, as any father would do, he helped his son set it up. One thing led to another, and within a few years that simple set had begun to take over a larger and larger portion of the family basement.

Word of this train display spread throughout the neighborhood. In the 1950's, the family began opening their now very elaborate display for townspeople and local school groups during the Christmas holidays. And, as the Groff family grew, so did their basement train display.

Then, in the early 60's, George and Florence needed some extra funds to help pay for college. George noticed a small township maintenance facility -- actually, more like a barn -- that became available along Route 741, just to the west of the recently reopened Strasburg Rail Road. Perhaps the trains, scenery, buildings, and animated figures in their basement could be used as a part-time business to help with the added financial burden of college expenses? And the rest, as they say, is history.

Today, the Choo Choo Barn is still a labor of love for the Groff family, and animated scenery, detailed miniature recreations of Lancaster County life, and moving trains still careen over the massive 1,700 square foot model layout. The design is updated each year, so there's always something new to see, and the Holidays are perfect for an extra special visit to one of Amish Country's oldest and most popular must-visit attractions.

The Choo Choo Barn, at 226 Gap Road (Rt. 741 East) in Strasburg, is open through the middle of January, 2018. Call for hours, 717.687.7911, or visit www.choochoobarn.com.



DEPARTING WEEKENDS
Nov. 24 – Dec. 22

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Santa's Paradise Express
The Night Before Christmas Train
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Several years ago, I started working on a second volume of *THE AMISH IN THEIR OWN WORDS*, my book compiled from Amish writings in "Family Life" magazine. Since then, for many reasons, my project of producing "Volume 2" remains in limbo. Nevertheless, because I had begun to read and compile countless articles, I have decided to share some of them with you as my Amish Series for this year.

The Amish in Their Own Words

Vol. 2 - Part Seven

by Brad Igou



Marketing the Amish

The Amish "mystique," which has developed over the past thirty years, is the result of a number of factors. One of the most obvious is that the general society has changed so rapidly and become so modern that a horse and buggy society typifies to people their lost past. The slower pace of Amish life appeals to people whose fast-paced lives are symbolized by the superhighways which connect the cities in which they reside.

The mystique, however, is more complex than that. It also involves virtues such as honesty and marital faithfulness, both stressed in Amish society but seriously compromised in the larger society. Also, as people have become more dependent on technology, they have become more impersonal. This explains their enjoyment in watching Amish farmers and carpenters building a barn together, a typical scene on calendars sold to tourists. And Amish craftsmanship is admired and purchased.

Advertising agencies, corporate executives, and independent retailers are fully aware of the mystique and are using the term "Amish" to sell a great variety of products. To the customer, "Amish" is supposed to mean "well-made, durable, better, dependable," and any other qualities a customer is looking for in a product. Some of the items being advertised as "Amish" are actually made by the Amish, but many are not. Let's take a look at some of the "Amish" items which have appeared in the marketplace.

Some companies do not actually use the word "Amish" in their advertisements, but include an Amish horse and buggy scene. This is called advertising by association. The buyer gets a mental impression that the product has "Amish quality."

For example, in 1982 the Norcold Company of Ohio ran a full-page magazine advertisement showing one of its refrigerators set into the back

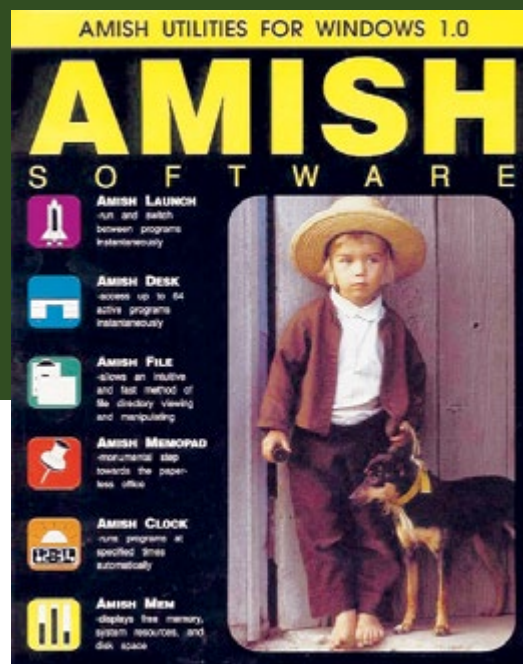
of an Amish buggy beside which a man and woman in Amish garb are standing. The word "Amish" does not appear anywhere in the ad which states, "In plain talk or fancy, one thing remains clear: from the simplest camper to the most deluxe motor home, there's a Norcold to fit right in."

The Hamilton Watch Company, which was established in Lancaster, Pennsylvania a century ago, used an Amish scene but not the word "Amish" in a full-page advertisement in the November 12, 1989 issue of the New York Times Magazine. A picture of a typical Lancaster County Amish homestead with a horse and buggy on the road in front of it covers the top third of the page. Beneath it a caption in large print states, "To look at it, you'd never guess this is one of the great watch centers of the world."

But the most unusual advertisement to use an Amish horse and buggy was done some years earlier by the Shasta Corporation, manufacturers of recreational vehicles. Its ad showed a horse and buggy hitched to a single-room camping trailer with the caption, "It only takes one horsepower to pull a Shasta."

A most unusual use of the Amish by association in advertising appeared in the June 1992 issue of "Windows Magazine." That periodical does not deal with house windows but "windows" in computers. The advertisement by Amish Software, Inc. of Palo Alto, California shows a cute little "Nebraska Amish" boy and his terrier. There is absolutely no reason for the Amish to be associated with computer software except for customer appeal.

For those of us not familiar with computer programming, the terms used in the advertisement are meaningless: "Amish Launch," "Amish Desk," "Amish File," "Amish Memopad," "Amish Clock," and "Amish Mem." But the software



company obviously thought their product needed something to help it sell, so they chose the Amish.

At York, Pennsylvania there is a company called "Amish Country Spas." Many of its classy bathtubs are named after towns in the Amish section of neighboring Lancaster County: "The Leola," "The Paradise," "The Lancaster," and "The Bird-in-Hand."

The name "Amish" can turn up just about anywhere. Sherwin Williams, the nationally known paint manufacturer, offers "Amish yellow" on its color chart.

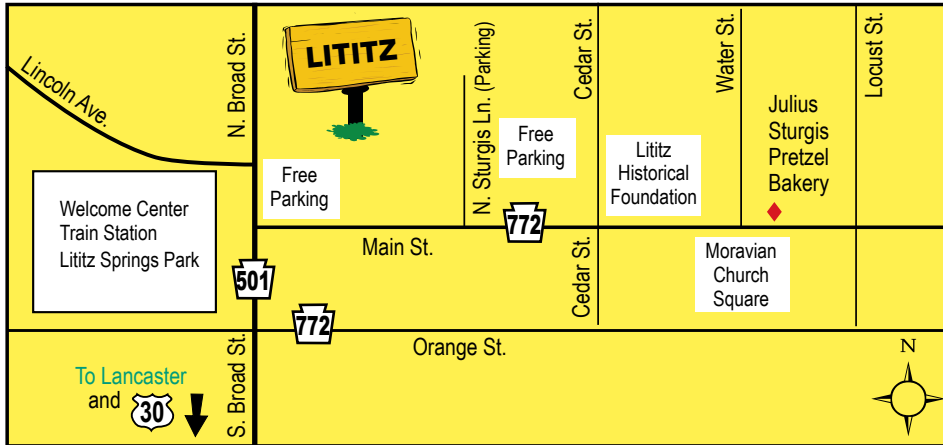
Then, of course, "Amish" chickens and turkeys are regularly advertised. For many years the Kroger supermarket in Ann Arbor, Michigan has been selling "Booth's Amish Country Poultry."

An Ohio newspaper reporter, Alma Kaufman wrote about "Amish poultry" in an article "All Those Gobblers Are Not Necessarily Amish." She related how she had investigated several brands of "Amish turkeys" and discovered that to qualify for such a label all that was needed was that someone Amish carried buckets of commercial feed to them or an Amish person worked in the processing plant.

The problem with so many products being labeled or advertised as "Amish" is that human beings are being idealized, romanticized, and set on a pedestal where no people belong. Sooner or later customers are going to read about some Amish moral failure or obtain an inferior "Amish" product and be very disappointed in a group which professes to be devout Christians. Amish are humans, not angels, thus not perfect.

The above was adapted from a 1999 article by David Luthy. 

Historic Lititz...Small Town Treasure



The Lititz Story is tied to the Moravian faith in Bohemia. Seeking religious freedom, Moravians arrived in the early 1700's. In 1755, the town took the name Lititz, from the German "Lidice," where European reformers found refuge in the 15th century. The Moravian Church, built in 1787, is located beside Linden Hall, the oldest operating residence school for girls in the USA. Across the street is the first commercial pretzel bakery (1861) in the New World, Julius Sturgis. Known for its 4th of July Celebration, this quaint town, with historic buildings and quaint shops along Main Street, is a visitor favorite. But at Christmas, the "putz" and Moravian Star speak to the town's heritage. 🏠

An Amish Christmas

By Brad Igou

As might be expected, Amish Christmas customs are simple, oriented to family and the religious meaning of the Holiday. So, Amish children don't visit Santa Claus in the store. There is no lavishly decorated Christmas tree in the home. And strings of colorful electric lights do not grace the Amish house.

But the making of special cookies and candies is certainly a part of the Holiday activities. Greens and candles may decorate some home interiors. School children often pick names and exchange small gifts, such as writing paper or a needlepoint kit. Families usually exchange some small gifts as well. Some Amish also send Christmas cards, often to their "English" friends. In fact many children and adults enjoy making their own "hand-stamped" cards.

The Christmas church service may or may not be held on December 25th, but both Christmas and the following day, sometimes called "second Christmas," are holidays for the Amish. This second day is usually one of relaxation or visiting. Christmas dinners are a special part of the celebration. They are usually large meals, not unlike those served at weddings. Various groups besides the family will hold get-togethers, such as single women, teachers, and others of like interest. These gatherings often continue into January and February of the New Year.

One of the highlights of the Christmas season for children and their parents is the Christmas program held in many one-room schools. Carriages arrive and parents file anxiously into the room. Sentimental stories, plays, and songs are filled with humor and messages of the meaning of the season.

Continued on Page 37

The Village of Bird-in-Hand

BRING IN AD FOR FREE GIFT!

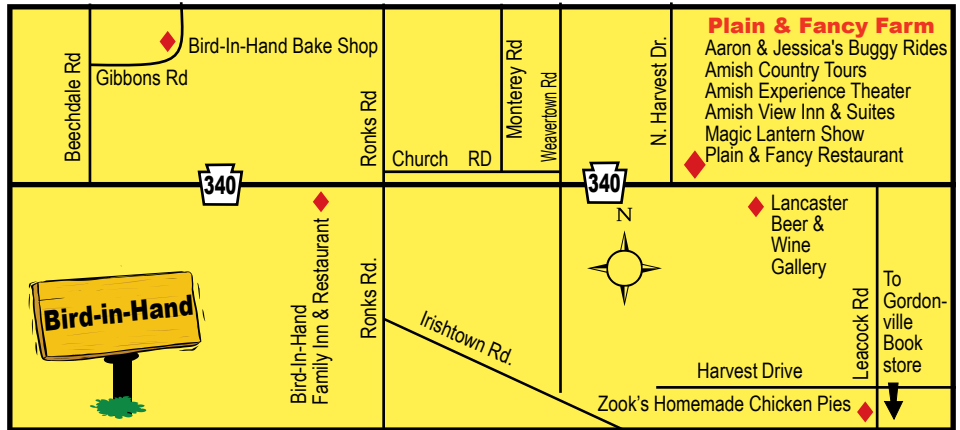
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Of the many unique names on the Amish Country map, Bird-in-Hand is justifiably famous. William Penn, an English Quaker, had founded the colony of Penn's Woods, and settlers began arriving in Philadelphia from Europe in the early 1700's, moving westward to Lancaster. Legend goes that by 1734, as the Old

Philadelphia Pike was being laid out, two surveyors at McNabb's Hotel discussed whether to stay there overnight or return to Lancaster. One noted, "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush." Soon the hotel and the village picked up the name, and travelers have been welcomed there ever since. 

Uplifting, Holiday Entertainment

The Bird-in-Hand Stage delights audiences with Broadway-style musicals and magic shows, and has become one of Lancaster County's must-see stops for live performances.

Holiday season shows run Nov. 7- Dec. 30

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Blades to Appreciate at Country Knives

By Clinton Martin

Country Knives is not only Amish Country's largest cutlery store, it rivals knife stores nationwide in selection (over 8,000 pieces of knives, cutlery, and edged tools). Of course, you'll find sporting and outdoor knives, kitchen tools, horticultural pieces, personal care and styling choices, but the world of collectibles that Country Knives features is simply fascinating... presentation knives, commemorative box sets and, of course, licensed reproductions.

Yes, Country Knives can put an exact replica of some of pop culture's most iconic edged weaponry right in your hands. Rambo's survival knife from the "First Blood" movie? Yeah, they've got it. Sci-Fi fantasy more your style? Then prepare to lift high a Hobbit's blade...

The epic trilogy, The Lord of the Rings, resulted in an amazing recreated sword. This is "Sting," the magical sword carried by Frodo Baggins on his quest through Middle Earth. Measuring 22 inches overall, the sword features a 15 inch blade constructed from AUS-6 stainless



steel, hardwood hand grip with Elven vine design, and a solid metal guard and pommel with antique metal finish. Engraved on the blade and cross guard are runes in the Elven language of Sindarin that say "Maegnas is my name, I am the spider's bane." It includes a display plaque with wood grain finish and Elven rune silk screen.

This authentically detailed replica is a reproduction of the actual filming prop built by Weta Workshop of New Zealand and used in the motion picture trilogy. United Cutlery, industry leader in fine movie reproductions, has meticulously recreated the prop using only the finest grade materials and craftsmanship. Close attention to detail was a top priority. It comes with a certificate of authenticity. Visit Country Knives to see this and other epic blades, and consider adding them to your Christmas list!

Country Knives can be reached at 717.768.3818 or online at www.countryknives.com. The store is easy to find (look for the yellow posts marking their driveway), just two miles east of Intercourse on Route 340, at 4134 Old Philadelphia Pike. 🚗

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Dutch Baskets

Dutch Baskets is on an Amish farm at 225 Voganville Road, New Holland. It is not normally open to the public, but on Dec. 1 & 2 this mail-order gift basket business will host a wonderful annual open house. A broad assortment of gifts and local goodies will be on hand as well as a full spectrum of their namesake baskets. Dutch Baskets fills their delectable gift baskets with the bounty of Lancaster County. Local cheeses, pretzels, snacks, meats, candies, and jams – everything is made locally in Amish Country. Many customers are locals who send baskets to friends living out of state, giving a real "from back home" feel. Dutch Baskets currently offers fourteen different baskets of their own design, but they will make personalized baskets as well. Call 717.509.1546. 🚗

The Aroma and Emotion of Visiting Amish Farms

By Sarah Price, Best-Selling Author



In 1978, my grandparents brought me on a one-day visit to Intercourse, PA. This was long before the “Witness” movie created such a national interest in the Amish religion and culture.

For me, however, it was a defining moment that changed the course of my life.

You see, I was only nine-years-old (yes, I admit that I’m not really perpetually 23 years old). And I loved “Little House on the Prairie.” That pioneering and farming lifestyle just appealed to me.

Perhaps it was because my family originally settled in Pennsylvania in 1715--Lutherans converted to Mennonites--who escaped persecution in Prussia so that they could worship in peace. I was born and initially raised on the original Preiss (later changed to Price) farmland in Harleysville, Pennsylvania. My father grew up as a poultry farmer and I have always been one of those people who are just crazy about animals (especially farm animals).

So, you can imagine that once I saw my first horse-drawn buggy and those massive farms that cover the landscape in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, I was hooked.

Fast forward to 2017 and, not only have I spent countless years among the Amish, staying on their farms, attending their worship services and fellowships, watching young children grow,

Continued on Page 35



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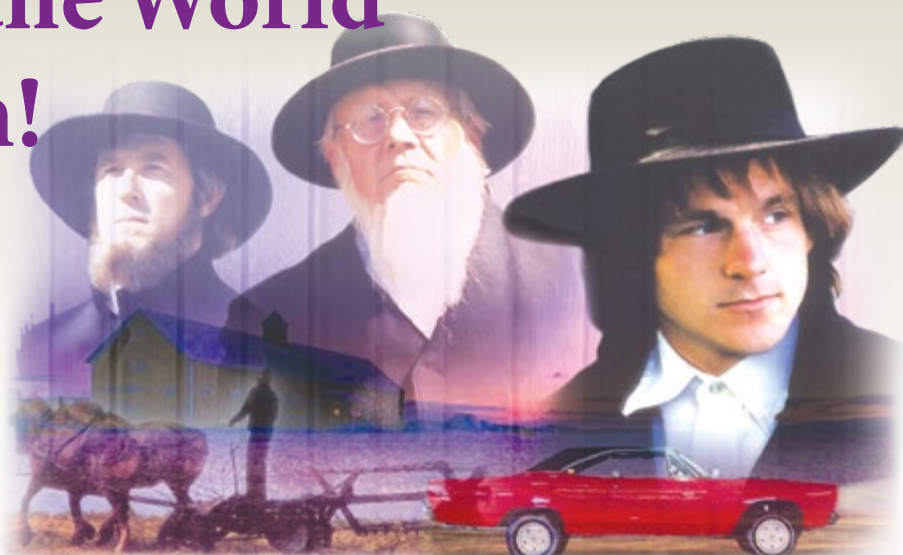
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Journey along back country roads, deep into the Amish Farmlands to discover sights rarely seen. Under the watchful eye of your certified guide, you'll gain insights into the "how" and "why" of an ever-changing culture, and see at-the-moment activities of the Amish. If you've seen the Amish portrayed on the various "Reality" TV shows, and you wonder what really is true and not true about the Amish, this is the tour you won't want to miss! We'll debunk myths about the Amish and provide accurate, respectful, and authentic information, just like we have done for over 50 years.

Visit-in-Person Tour



Rare is the opportunity to meet with Amish families willing to share their traditions and beliefs with you. In a group whose size is never more than 14, this is the only Amish Tour to be designated an official "Heritage Tour" by the County of Lancaster. Visit an Amish farm at milking time, stop at a Cottage Industry, and finally enjoy a visit and chat with our Amish friends in their home.

SuperSaver Tour



THIS IS YOUR TOTAL AMISH EXPERIENCE! SuperSaver Package includes Amish Farmlands Tour, the acclaimed "Jacob's Choice" at the Amish Experience F/X Theater, and a tour of the Amish House & One-Room School. As a bonus, receive an Amish cookbook and a voucher for a FREE BUGGY RIDE from Aaron & Jessica's on property. Buggy ride offer valid through November only.

Holiday | Winter 2017-2018 Tour Times & Hours

Amish Farmlands Tour Times

Until November 25 (Closed Thanksgiving):
10AM, 12PM, 2PM 4PM, every day.

December 2-16, 2017

10AM, 12PM, 2PM, Sat. only – 12/2, 12/9, 12/16

December 18-30, 2017 (Closed Christmas Day)

10AM, 12PM, 2PM 4PM, daily.

Last tour 2PM Christmas Eve.

January | February Hours

(Martin Luther King Jr. Day & President's Day Weekends ONLY)

January 13-15

10AM, 12PM, 2PM 4PM, daily.

February 17-19

10AM, 12PM, 2PM 4PM, daily.

Amish Visit-in-Person Tour Times

Until November 25 (Closed Thanksgiving)

Sat. Only 5:00PM

November 4, 11, 18, 25

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House & School: Tours Quarter to the Hour

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Theater Shows on the Hour

House & School: Tours Quarter to the Hour

December 18-30, 2017 (Closed Christmas Day):

Theater Shows on the Hour.

Last show 2PM Christmas Eve

House & School: Tours Quarter to the Hour.

Last tour 2:45PM Christmas Eve

Closed Sunday Dec. 17 & 31.

January/February

Martin Luther King Jr. Day &

President's Day weekends ONLY

January 13-15

Theater Shows on the Hour

House & School at Quarter to the Hour

February 17-19

Theater Shows on the Hour

House & School: Tours at Quarter to the Hour



The Amish Experience

at Plain & Fancy Farm

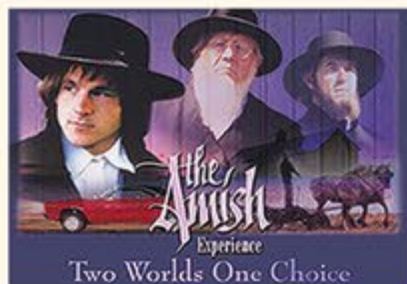
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Discover what it means to be Amish through magical story-telling as you become part of the emotional struggle of the Fisher family to preserve more than 400 years of Amish traditions. Five viewing screens, a unique barnyard setting, and special effects create a one-of-a-kind experience.

Amish Farmlands Tour

Journey down rarely traveled back country roads, deep into the farmlands, to discover the sights sought after by visitors. Gain insights into the hows and whys of an ever-changing culture from certified guides in 14-passenger mini-shuttles. Stops may include a roadside stand, quilt shop, country store or craft shop on an Amish farm.



Amish Country Homestead & Schoolroom

Visit the only officially designated "Heritage Site" Amish house. As you walk through the nine rooms with your guide, unravel the riddle of Amish clothing, life without electricity, and eight-grades-in-a-room education as you sit at authentic Amish school desks.

Magic Lantern Show

Go back in time! Not a magic show, but a magical entertainment experience before there were movies. An authentic 1890's lantern projects stunning images, accompanied by a live performer, music and Victorian "special effects." It's the only permanent magic lantern theater in the world.



Visit-in-Person Tour

This officially designated "Heritage Tour" is a rare opportunity to meet and talk to the Amish personally. On this exclusive tour you will go right into the barn on an Amish farm at milking time, visit with an Amish artisan at his workplace, and then enjoy a personal visit and conversation right in an Amish home. Limited to 14 guests.

Smokehouse BBQ and Brews

Please see right hand page.



Buggy Rides

Aaron & Jessica's drivers are happy to share life stories and answer questions.

The Country Store

Find books, videotapes, candles, toys and dolls, kitchen and home items, souvenirs, local handcrafts, Amish clothing, straw hats, bonnets, and last but not least...tasty treats.

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www.PlainAndFancyFarm.com

www.AmishViewInn.com

www.AmishExperience.com

www.SmokehouseBBQandBrews.com



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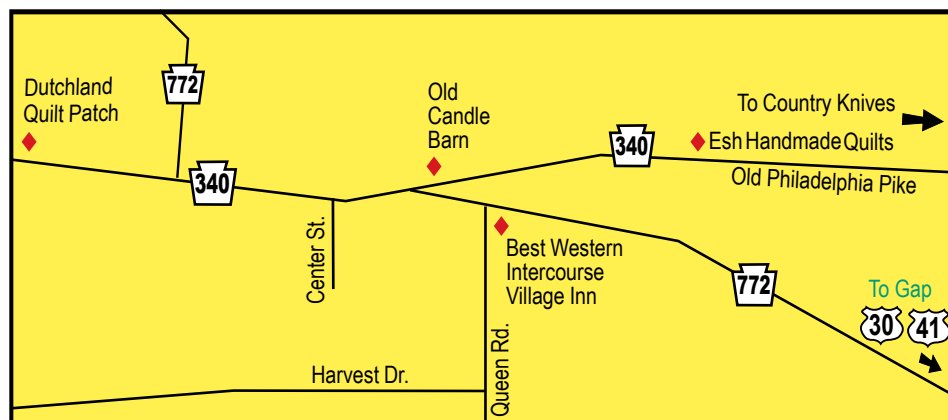
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The Town of Intercourse



Very few towns in Amish Country are more famous than Intercourse. Even Harrison Ford was in town filming the movie "Witness" 32 years ago. Since the early 1700's, the town was a stop on the Old Philadelphia Pike, connecting Lancaster with Philadelphia, with a tavern called "Cross Keys."

In 1814, a real estate scheme based on changing the name to Intercourse failed. But the name stuck, signifying the intersection of roads and mingling of people in this quiet country village. By 1880, the town had a population of 280 and, as it still does today, a post office where visitors can still get a postcard dated and stamped "Intercourse, PA."



Aaron & Jessica's Buggy Rides operates year-round. Call 717-723-0478.

Christmas: One Word Said Best with Two Attractions

By Mark Sullivan

'Tis the season of giving and celebration and there are few things that say "Merry Christmas" better than the Magic Lantern Show at the Plain & Fancy Theater, "A Christmas Journey," and the iconic National Christmas Center.

These two popular Amish Country Christmas attractions are combining to give you an experience you won't soon forget. And, you will save money too! The package, a "Christmas Combo Spectacular," gives you the opportunity to purchase a combination ticket for both the Magic Lantern Show and the National Christmas Center for only \$21.95, saving you \$7.50 if you were to purchase the tickets separately!

In "A Christmas Journey," the holidays come alive with music, comedy, drama and live storytelling...just like it would have been during the late 1800's. Using one of fewer than 100 antique triurnal Magic Lanterns in



the world, spectacular hand-painted images are projected onto the big screen by a multi-talented "Showman," who weaves words and music together to bring to life some of Christmas's most beloved stories! The heartwarming Victorian celebration is not to be missed, and this year includes the rarely seen Charles Dickens story of "Gabriel Grubb and the Goblins." The theater is located at the Plain & Fancy Farm Restaurant on Route 340, between Bird-In-Hand and Intercourse (717.768.8400, ext.210).

At the amazing National Christmas Center (717.442.7950), off Route 30 East in Paradise, the season is alive in this stunning attraction filled with displays and Christmas nostalgia from local customs to traditions around the world. The Tudor Towne Animated Story Book Village, the First Christmas, the Toyland Train Mountain, and even a visit from old Santa Claus himself at his North Pole Workshop... the number of Christmas themed rooms and displays will truly fill you with the spirit! I urge you to make your Holidays memorable with these two wonderful family activities. And take advantage of the Christmas Combo Spectacular! This special combo can be purchased at either attraction or online at www.magiclanterntheater.com.

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- ★ Curtains & Linens ★ Upholstered Furniture ★ Window Lights & Bulbs ★ Lots of Deliciously Scented Candles

The Aroma and Emotion of Visiting Amish Farms

(Continued from Page 29)

marry, and have babies of their own, I have written over forty novels about the Amish, over half of them bestsellers.

But there is something else you might not know about me. Despite splitting my time between my home in New Jersey and my farm in Florida, I still find myself drawn to aspects of the Amish lifestyle, one of which is my passion for horses.

One of the things that I love about owning horses (or, rather, being owned by horses...ha ha ha) is arriving at the barn. Every morning, I drive my daughter to our 120-acre horse property in New Jersey. She's fifteen and trains wild mustangs, something that fascinates my Amish friends. For me, it keeps me fairly close to my roots of farming.



Whenever we arrive at the farm, we are welcomed by a sweet scent that permeates the area, a mixture of hay and manure, leather and sweat. To some people, those odors are pungent and offensive. But to me, I find them comforting.

You see, every Amish farm has an odor. Maybe you've noticed that when visiting the many different Amish farms that welcome tourists. Far too often, I've been at Amish farms, the ones that have shops open to the public, when tourists arrive, and upon exiting their buses they wrinkle their noses and profess that "it stinks."

I know that many people might react the same way. Many years ago, and pre-horse-ownership, my own children did, too. But, I think that reaction is wrong. Instead of thinking of the odors in a negative way, I recommend tourists try to embrace it. For me, I would rather be standing in the middle of an Amish farm, surrounded by those odors, than anywhere else in the world.

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Walk into an Amish home and chances are that you will be bombarded by a mixture of odors. The sweet smell of yeast mixed with Murphy's Oil (for cleaning the hardwood, of course) and lavender. I don't know why but many of the homes that I've visited smell like either lavender or lemon. Sometimes there will also be the distinct odor of what I call "oldness"—something that seems to seep from the walls of the older farmhouses, a scent that, to me, hints at the stories of so many lives that have lived within the four walls over time.

Out in the gardens, there are distinct smells. Earth mixed with compost and, occasionally, the scent of dampness from morning dew. And if you help an Amish woman weed, there is a unique odor among each of the plants. As

you lean forward and pluck the weeds from the plants, you inhale tomatoes, beans, lettuce, and carrots. Each plant has its own distinct scent.

Oh, how I wish that I could bottle up these odors and share them with everyone. While I know a few people might wrinkle up their noses, especially at the manure, I also know that some people would shut their eyes and inhale, deeply.

The scents that you would encounter when visiting an Amish farm are those of hard work, strong faith, and good people. That's the only way that I can explain it.

So, the next time you have the chance to visit a farm, instead of finding the odors offensive, stop. Close your eyes and inhale. Try to

Continued on Page 36

Country Housewares Store

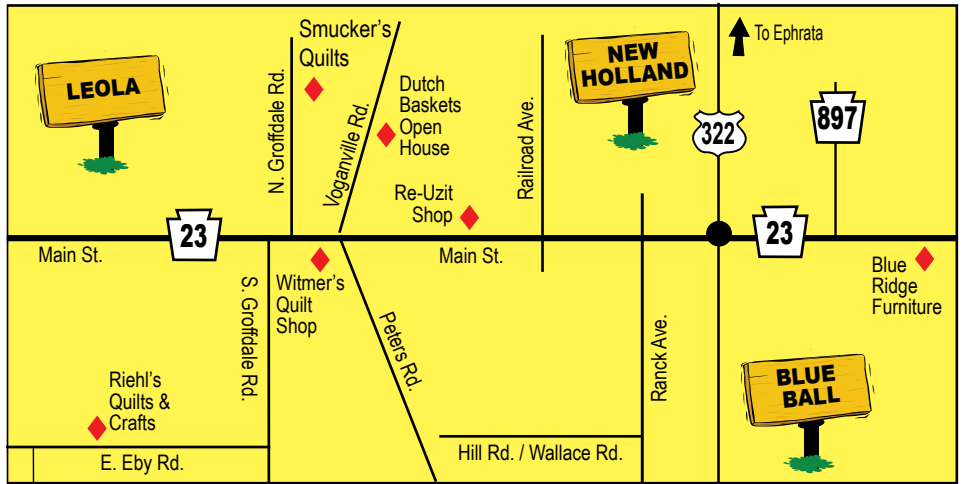
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New Holland & Blue Ball



The instability in Europe in the late 1600's spawned the pioneer interest in the forest lands of Pennsylvania. Besides religious freedom and a peaceful existence, William Penn offered cheap land. As settlers arrived, villages grew up throughout the area. In 1802, when a post office was established, an official name was needed for this town between Leola and the tavern at Blue Ball. Residents remembered the kindness of the Dutch and their assistance

providing funds to cover the cost of the ocean voyage to the New World for the original refugee German immigrants. And thus the name, New Holland. 🐴

Amish Farms

(Continued from Page 35)

identify the different elements that contribute to the smell: hay, grass, labor, love. When you do, you'll realize that, without doubt, it is one of the most honest and beautiful scents, one that speaks to a level of commitment to God and the earth that simply cannot be replicated.

Sarah Price, the best-selling author of over forty novels, most of them Amish Christian romances, can be followed online at www.sarahpriceauthor.com or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fansofsarahprice. She live-streams inspirational videos on Facebook every morning and loves to hear from her readers. 🐴

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EDITOR'S NOTE: We were charmed by nationally recognized author of Amish fiction Sarah Price's description of visiting an Amish farm. Closing our eyes and letting the words sink in, we could almost feel the weeds in our fingers, the leather reigns laying across our laps in a buggy, or the yeasty smell of rising dough in our noses. On November 4, 11, 18, and 25, 2017 an Amish VIP (Visit-in-Person) Tour is offered starting at 5:00pm. Experience what Ms. Price is describing on this three-stop, three-hour Amish family home tour. Call 800.555.2303 Ext. 210 for details.

An Amish Christmas

(Continued from Page 25)

Years ago a book called "Getting Ready for Christmas" was published, filled with skits (both in English and Pennsylvania German), songs, and poems. The book was actually typed by an Amish wheelchair patient, who received "a percentage of the books sold."

School programs begin with a welcome, sometimes by one of the younger "scholars," who is often given a short verse to recite in English...

I'm glad it isn't size and weight and age that count today, 'cause then I might not have the chance to stand up here and say, MERRY CHRISTMAS!

While stories are often about their non-Amish neighbors, mentioning Santa Claus and Christmas trees, clearly this is not what the season represents. Some of the dialog from the plays suggests the morals behind the stories...

"Sometimes the gifts you make bring more happiness than anything you can buy."

"Giving and making others happy is the best part of Christmas."

"The best gift you can give is simply called love."

In the following selection, "Christmas Bees," imagine seven children walking to the front

of the classroom, each holding a bee-shaped "shield" with a word on it. They begin by reciting in unison:

*Bees can sting, oh, this is true,
But bees can make good honey, too,
And that's the kind we have for you.*

Now each child holds up a word and recites a verse about his or her "bee..."

*Be REVERENT in spirit low, at the manger lowly;
And catch anew the vision fair of the Christ Child holy.*

Continued on Page 38

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- Amish Hats
- Amish Clothing

An Amish Christmas

(Continued from Page 37)

Be **GENEROUS**, give all you can, then give a little more;

Be sure to give more largely now than you ever gave before.

Be **THOUGHTFUL** of the people who are lonely, old, or sad;

Be thoughtful of the children, too, and help to make them glad.

Be **READY** quickly to respond to Christmastime appeals;

Be quick to give to friends afar or for the needy's meals.

Be **UNSELFISH** --- all self-seeking with abandon cast aside;

Be unselfish --- that's the keynote of the happy Christmastide.

Be **HOPEFUL** for the best in life, for hope has wondrous worth;

It was to bring hope unto men that Christ came down to earth.

Be **APPRECIATIVE** for great riches of Christ and of His love,

And of all the blessings from our Father up above.

Oh, may these "bees" with you abide,

All sweeten well your Christmastide.

In keeping with the focus of the holiday, some Christmas songs and carols are given new words, especially for the children. Here is a re-working of "O Little Town of Bethlehem..."

O little Inn of Bethlehem

How like we are to you;

Out lives are crowded to the brim

With this and that to do.

We're not unfriendly to the King,

We mean well without doubt;

We have no hostile feelings,

We merely crowd Him out.

After the songs and short skits, the program concludes...

Now that our program's over,

I came to say good-bye,

And what I feel like doing,

Is heave a great big sigh.

Take our mistakes as kisses;

No harm was meant by them.

I hope you did enjoy the day

So you will come again.

I am guessing that these Christmas programs are a holdover from the days when all one-room schools were public schools. Clearly, regardless of whether you are Amish or "English," seeing the children do their songs, poems and skits is an experience that warms the heart and brings a tear to the eye in this holiday season. 

Our Advertisers

An (S) after the name denotes Open Sunday. An * before the name denotes a coupon.

ATTRACTIONS

360Lancaster.com.....	10
*Aaron & Jessica's Buggy Rides (S).....	44
American Quilter's Society.....	37
*Amish Country Homestead (S).....	30
*Amish Country Tours (S).....	31
*Amish Experience Theater (S).....	30
Bird-in-Hand Stage.....	26
Choo Choo Barn (S).....	22
Dutch Apple Dinner Theater (S).....	4
Dutch Haven (S).....	3
Eastland Alpacas (S).....	14
Gettysburg Foundation (S).....	42
Hershey's Chocolate World (S).....	25
Julius Sturgis Pretzel Bakery.....	25
Koziar's Christmas Village (S).....	10
*Magic Lantern Christmas Show.....	2
*Mount Hope Estate & Winery (S).....	10
Mount Hope Mansion Events (S).....	14
National Christmas Center (S).....	18
Rainbow's Comedy Playhouse (S).....	21
Strasburg Rail Road (S).....	23
*Strasburg Scooters (S).....	23
*Taste Lancaster (S).....	6
Turkey Hill Experience (S).....	6

LET'S EAT

Bird-in-Hand Bake Shop.....	28
*Bird-in-Hand Rest. & Smorgasbord.....	26
Good 'N Plenty (S).....	29
*Lancaster Beer & Wine Gallery (S).....	43
*Miller's Smorgasbord (S).....	19
*Neto's Pizza (S).....	10
*Plain & Fancy Farm (S).....	32

Revere Tavern (S).....	18
*Smokehouse BBQ & Brews (S).....	33

LODGING

Amish View Inn & Suites.....	32
*Country Inn of Lancaster.....	8
Flory's Cottages & Camping.....	8

SHOPPING

Author Sara Price's Novels.....	16
Blue Ridge Furniture.....	36
Cackleberry Farm Antique Mall (S).....	20
Country Housewares Store.....	36
*Country Knives.....	26
Dutch Baskets.....	15
Dutchland Quilt Patch.....	18
Dutch Haven Shoofly Bakery (S).....	3
Esh Handmade Quilts.....	35
Forest Hill Leather Craft.....	28
Gish's Furniture & Amish Heirlooms.....	17
Gordonville Bookstore.....	22
J & B Quilts and Crafts.....	22
*Jake's Country Trading Post (S).....	5
*Killer Hats (S).....	18
Lapp's Toys.....	21
Old Candle Barn.....	34
Renninger's Antique Market (S).....	6
Riehl's Quilts & Crafts.....	27
Sam's Man Cave.....	8
Smucker's Quilts.....	38
Thrift Shop Co-Op.....	12-13
Witmer Quilt Shop.....	37
Zook's Homemade Chicken Pies.....	35



In This Issue

Holiday 2017 & Winter 2018

COVER STORY

Zook's Homemade Chicken Pies.....4, 5

FEATURE ARTICLES

Amish Christmas Customs25
 Author Sarah Price29
 Choo Choo Barn23
 Christmas: Two Attractions34
 Country Knives.....28
 Dutch Baskets28
 Dutch Haven Shoo-Fly Pies3
 Eastland Alpacas.....8
 Koziar's Christmas Village.....4
 Mount Hope Mansion Events.....16
 Neto's Pizza14
 National Christmas Center17
 Sam's Man Cave6
 Thrift Shop Co-Op12-13
 Turkey Hill Experience19
 Zook's Homemade Chicken Pies.....10

REGULAR FEATURES

Brad Igou's Amish Series24
 Dutch Haven Landmark.....3
 Publisher's Message39

AREA MAP & GUIDES

Advertiser Index38
 Amish Country Map.....40-41
 Bird-in-Hand26-33
 Gettysburg.....42
 Intercourse.....34-35
 Lititz25
 New Holland/Blue Ball36-38
 Paradise18-21
 Strasburg.....22-23

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Publisher's Message



Too Busy For Christmas

By Brad Igou

The busy holiday season is upon us. Every year it seems to start earlier. We hear Christmas music in November as we go shopping. Even Black Friday Sales start before Black Friday. Whacky Wednesdays next?

In 2016, the average American spent over \$900 on gifts for friends and loved ones, and I just heard a projection on the radio for this year of \$1,100 on gift giving. One wonders what toy will create the mad rush online and at toy stores. But enough focus on dollars, for that is not what the holiday is about... or is it?

With all the uncertainties in the world, most of us appreciate even more the importance of bringing the sometimes far-flung family together. While there may be a few gatherings more akin to "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation," most of us have a relatively sane get-together.

In the Amish world, community is at the center of almost everything, and the religious meaning of Christmas is not lost in all the commotion. People worship in their neighbor's homes. One-room school students have a Christmas program for their parents. Handmade cards, cookies, and candies are the norm. And friends in the church district remember those less fortunate. The church, school, and family are integrated in a way one rarely finds elsewhere.

Yet, just like the rest of us, the Amish sometimes worry that they are too occupied with their work or other concerns. As we all scurry

about planning this and that, time for quiet and reflection is too often limited. Some of us actually need to schedule "alone time."

In this regard, I came across a wonderful story, contributed to the Amish monthly magazine "Family Life." The selection below is taken from the book THE AMISH IN THEIR OWN WORDS. The words of wisdom come, appropriately for this time of year, from a child...

A story comes to mind of a young man who had a small son. The young father was always very busy. His small son often tagged along behind him and, as small children are, he was full of questions. The father often didn't take time to give him satisfactory answers to his many questions. His impatient answer often was, "Don't ask so many questions. Don't you see that I am busy now?"

One Sunday afternoon, when the father was still out in the barn, hustling with his many chores, the mother of the small boy took her son in her lap. As was her custom, she opened a Bible storybook, showed him the pictures, and as best she could explained the stories and answered his many questions.

She came to a drawing of Jesus ascending into heaven. The boy listened with interest as she explained how the time will come someday when Jesus will come again, and how they will all want to go along to that beautiful place.

After a pause, the boy looked up into her face and in all innocence remarked, "Dad probably won't go along, will he? He will probably be too busy."

Strike a note? The lesson of this story is clear. We need to take time to listen to our children, and be careful about our "unsaid" messages. My hope is that, as worldliness and life's many distractions creep ever more into our daily lives, we somehow keep close by what is really important, especially our youngsters for whom we remain indelible role models, whether we are aware of it or not.

I'll conclude with this poem excerpt, also from the book...

*Cleaning and scrubbing can wait till tomorrow,
 For babies grow up,
 we've learned to our sorrow;
 So quiet down, cobwebs;
 dust go to sleep;
 I'm rocking my baby,
 and babies don't keep!*

The best gift of all is still free of charge, can't be texted, and will never be available online. It's the gift of love. Whether giving or receiving, this most precious of gifts is what I wish for you and your families this Holiday season.



Gettysburg...A Divided Country's Turning Point

by Brad Igou

We could probably make a strong argument that when people think of Pennsylvania, they primarily think of four destinations, all just a short drive from Amish Country. The other three are, of course, Philadelphia, Hershey, and Gettysburg.

Readers will immediately identify nearby Gettysburg with the Civil War. Here are a few quick facts. Between July 1-3, 1863, Maj. Gen. George Meade's Union Army defeated attacks by Gen. Robert E. Lee's Confederate Army, ending Lee's attempt to invade the North. Often described as the turning point in the war, this was the bloodiest battle, with the largest number of casualties. Not long after the battle, President Lincoln came to the cemetery to give what is arguably the most famous American speech, the Gettysburg Address.

Today, visitors are fortunate to have so many excellent resources available to really gain an in-depth understanding of those fateful days, and see where those events actually took place, as they walk this "Hallowed Ground."



The place to begin is the Gettysburg Museum and Visitor Center. Gone are the days of the "Electric Map" and the somewhat musty displays. Now this spectacular center houses a

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state-of-the-art museum with fascinating artifacts, interactive displays, and information not only about the big events, but also the many individual stories of those involved in the struggle.

Then a film narrated by Morgan Freeman sets the stage for viewing the truly amazing Cyclorama, a 360-degree painting of Pickett's Charge that was completed a few years after the battle itself. Recently restored and preserved, this 4-story high, longer-than-a-football-field mural places you in the center of the battle.

Armed with this historical background, you are now ready for a tour of the battlefield itself, and there are various options, from having a licensed guide, to driving around on your own, to taking a bus tour. There is a very reasonably priced option that includes the museum, cyclorama, and bus tour in a combination ticket.

But just as Lancaster is much more than just Amish Country, Gettysburg offers a variety

of attractions beyond the battlefield. The town square is delightful, with many other historic buildings, lodging, shops, theater, and restaurants, all good spots to unwind after a day of sightseeing. You might even want to do a Ghost Tour in the evening.



Many visitors are not familiar with the nearby Eisenhower National Historic Site, the home and farm of General and President Dwight D. Eisenhower. This was his weekend retreat and a meeting place for world leaders, a much needed respite from Washington, and a backdrop for efforts to reduce Cold War tensions.

You'll want to plan some time for other pursuits, whether that be outlet shopping, visiting wineries, or various outdoor activities. And you may want to check out some of the events you might not associate with Gettysburg --- a beer festival, bike week, apple harvest festival, and even Gettysburg Rocks.

So be sure to plan a visit to Gettysburg and make this small Pennsylvania town that changed the course of history a part of your vacation battle plan.

Photos courtesy of Destination Gettysburg.



Calling All Photographers!

2017 Amish Country News Photo Contest

To enter, send 8x10 photos at high resolution (300 dpi) and in .jpg format to: editor@amishnews.com Put "2017 photo contest" in subject line. Deadline 12/31/17.

Photos become property of Amish Country News/Amish Experience and may be used in upcoming issues, publications, and/or other promotions. Photos should depict scenes, aspects, events, or activities typical to Lancaster or the Pennsylvania Dutch Country region. We accept photos via email, and request no more than 10 photos by the same person be submitted. File names should contain your name. In the email include your name, address, and phone number. Details on location, date, or subject matter of the photograph should also be included.



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The Sunday Ride Adults \$16 Children \$8

This 30 to 35 minute tour is the only ride available on Sundays. The Sunday Ride is a lovely tour through an all Amish area. There are no stops on this ride due to the Amish's observance of the Sabbath.

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